GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1578
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
IMPORT OF SANDALWOOD
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of sandalwood is freely allowed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of applications received for the grant of import licence and number of applications processed so far;

(d) whether the processed applications fulfil all the criteria of the import policy;

(e) whether there is any restriction on import of sandalwood from those countries where export is banned; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the illegal import of sandalwood?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) and (b) Import of sandalwood is restricted. Import is permitted against an import licence issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The import licences are to be issued by DGFT in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(c) and (d) DGFT received 41 applications for issuance of import license for sandalwood for the financial year 2006-07. Import licence has been issued in one case, in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(e) and (f) As per the import Policy, the Certificate of Origin from exporting country is to be submitted along with the application for import license; accordingly importers are also asked to submit, at the time of custom clearance, a certificate from the exporting country that sandalwood export is legally allowed by that country.